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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proposed because it does not raise any new issues requiring

further search, narrows the issues on appeal, and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 1-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 have been amended merely to make editorial changes, and not for

distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements

of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should

be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of

the amended claim.

Claims 1-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17,

20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jebens (U.S. Patent

No. 6,321,231). Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Jebens in view of Manolis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,799; hereinafter "Manolis"). Claim 8 stands

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jebens in view of Hashimoto, et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 2002/0012453; hereinafter "Hashimoto").

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I.　THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An illustrative, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention is directed to an image data

communication system in which a plurality of client computers and a server system are capable of

communicating with each other via a network. In the exemplary embodiment, one of the client

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computers includes an original-image data specifying unit for specifying original-image data that is

to be transmitted to the server system and an original-image data transmitting unit for transmitting

the original-image data, which has been specified by the original-image data specifying unit, to the

server system.

The server system includes an original-image data receiving unit for receiving the original-

image data transmitted from the original-image data transmitting unit, <u>an image data generating unit,</u>

which responds to receipt of the original-image data by the original-image data receiving unit, <u>for</u>

<u>generating reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two</u>

<u>images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less</u>

<u>than that of the original-image data,</u> and a unit for associating the original-image data, which has

been received by the original-image data receiving unit, and the reduced-data-quantity image data

that has been generated by the image data generating unit.

In another exemplary embodiment, a server system capable of communicating with a client

computer via a network includes an original-image data receiving unit for receiving the original-

image data transmitted, an image data generating unit, which responds to receipt of the original-

image data by the original-image data receiving unit, <u>for generating reduced-data-quantity image data</u>

<u>of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least</u>

<u>two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data,</u> and a unit

for associating the original-image data, which has been received by the original-image data receiving

unit, and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated by the image data generating

unit.

In another exemplary embodiment, a method of controlling the operation of a server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network includes the steps of receiving original-image data that is sent, generating, in response to receipt of the original-image data, reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data, and associating the original-image data that has been received and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention relates to a recording medium storing a program for controlling a server system capable of communicating with a client computer via a network. The program controls a computer of the server system so as to receive original-image data that has been sent, generate, in response to receipt of the original-image data, reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data, and associate the original-image data that has been received and the reduced-data-quantity image data that has been generated.

The claimed invention can upload image data possessing a plurality of image qualities to a server system and register image data and search information for searching the image data in an image database in a comparatively simple manner, such that a plurality of client computers and a server system are capable of communicating with each other via a network.

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II. CLAIM REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART GROUNDS

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being

anticipated by Jebens.

In the present invention, the original-image data is transmitted from the client computer of

the server system. The original-image data is received by the server system, whereupon an image

data generating unit of the server system generates "reduced-data-quantity image data of same format

of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in

each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data", as recited in claim 1

(emphasis added).

That is, the server system may obtain original-image data representing an original image,

medium-image data the quantity of data of which is less than that of the original-image data, and

thumbnail-image data the quantity of data of which is less than that of the original-image data.

However, in the claimed invention, the medium-image data and thumbnail-image data have

the same format. For example, both the medium-image data and the thumbnail image data can have

the same JPEG format. (See, e.g., page 35, line 13, to page 36, line 15, of the specification.)

In the Office Action (e.g., see page 4, lines 8-9), the Examiner alleges that Jebens discloses

an autolog routine that uses the original file (step 200) to create a thumbnail (step 216) of the original

file (step 200) in JPEG format, and subsequently creates a low resolution image (steps 220 and 222)

"in a format compatible with the format (218) of the original image sent by the user (14)", as

disclosed at column 9, lines 52-58; column 10, lines 1-17; and column 10, lines 19-30.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

First, Applicants submit that claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that an image data generating unit of the server system generates "reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data", not that it generates data "in a format compatible with the format" "of the original image sent by the user".

That is, the claimed invention requires that the medium-image data and thumbnail-image data are the same format, not that the medium-image data and the original image sent by the user are the same format.

Indeed, as the Examiner points out, Jebens merely discloses that the medium-image data and the original image sent by the user are the same format.   This is irrelevant to the claimed invention.

Specifically, Jebens discloses that:

> both the low resolution and the original image file are stored in the file
> format selected by the user if the option discussed in connection with
> blocks 218 and 219 is implemented (see Jebens at column 10, lines 45-52).

As shown in Figure 4B, the thumbnail is generated (e.g., step 216) prior to and independent of the implementation of steps 218 and 219, in which it is determined whether the file format is correct. Thus, Jebens does not necessarily disclose or suggest that the format of the two stages of image data in which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data are the same (i.e., that the low resolution image file and the thumbnail image file are the same format), but instead, discloses that the low resolution image file and the original image file can be the same format (e.g., see column 10, lines 45-52).

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Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens clearly does not disclose or suggest

generating "reduced-data-quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two

images possessing data quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less

than that of the original-image data", as claimed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens neither

discloses nor suggests all of the recitations of claim 1, and therefore, claim 1 is neither anticipated

nor rendered obvious by Jebens.

With respect to independent claims 14, 17, and 20, Applicants submit that claims 14, 17, and

20 also are patentable over Jebens for reasons similar to those set forth above, as well as for the

additional features recited therein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens neither discloses nor

suggests all of the features of claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24, and therefore, respectfully

requests that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of these claims.

Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jebens in

view of Manolis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,799; hereinafter "Manolis").

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jebens does not disclose or suggest all

of the recitations of independent claim 1, from which claims 7 and 10 depend.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Manolis does not make up for the deficiencies

of Jebens, since Manolis also does not disclose or suggest generating "reduced-data-quantity image

data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data quantities of at

least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data", as

claimed. Indeed, the Examiner does not even rely on Manolis for this feature.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 10 would not have been obvious over

any combination of Jebens and Manolis for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as

well as for the additional combination of features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7 and 10 under § 103 should be withdrawn.

As mentioned in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on January 29, 2004, the

Manolis reference can be removed as prior art by perfecting the claim to foreign priority under 35

U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). However, for the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jebens does

not disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1, and therefore, claims 7 and 10

should be allowable based on their dependency from claim 1.

Applicants reserve the right to perfect the claim to foreign priority and remove the Manolis

reference as prior art.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jebens in view

of Hashimoto, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0012453; hereinafter "Hashimoto"). For at least the

following reasons, Applicants traverse these rejections.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jebens does not disclose or suggest all

of the recitations of independent claim 1, from which claim 8 depends.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Hashimoto does not make up for the

deficiencies of Jebens, since Hashimoto also does not disclose or suggest generating "reduced-data-

quantity image data of same format of two stages representing at least two images possessing data

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quantities of at least two stages in each of which the quantity of data is less than that of the original-image data", as claimed. Indeed, the Examiner does not even rely on Hashimoto for this feature.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 would not have been obvious over any combination of Jebens and Hashimoto for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional combination of features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 under § 103 should be withdrawn.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-14, 17, 20, 23, and 24 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.
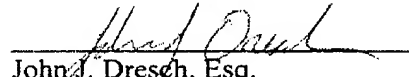
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any

overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

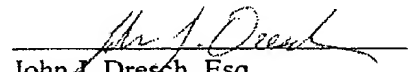Date: _July 9, 2004_

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 the enclosed Amendment under 37

C.F.R. § 1.116 to Examiner Melanie M. Vida, Group Art Unit 2626, on July 9, 2004.

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